

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 (currently amended): A mine roof support crib comprising:

a plurality of chocks that are connected together through notches in the chocks to form at least three planes and able to support at least five tons of load, each notch having only one edge and a flat portion that extends from the edge to the end of the chock.

Claim 2 (original): A crib as described and Claim 1 wherein the plurality of chocks connected together can support at least 20 tons of load.

Claim 3 (original): A crib as described in Claim 2 wherein each chock has a long axis and each notch of the chock is cut at a right angle to the long axis of the chock.

Claim 4 (original): A crib as described in Claim 3 wherein the plurality of chocks forms four planes.

Claim 5 (original): A crib as described in Claim 4 wherein at least two of the planes are in perpendicular relation with each other.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A crib as described in Claim 5 wherein each notch has either a spacer or a bar pin or a staple attached to the chock in the flat portion defining a receive zone with the edge of the corresponding notch, the receive zone receiving a notch of an adjacent chock, the space, bar pin or staple being a distinct piece from the chock.

Claim 7 (original): A crib as described in Claim 6 wherein the height of the spacer, bar pin or staple is less than the rise of the edge of the corresponding notch.

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Claim 8 (original): A crib as described in Claim 7 wherein each chock has a primary piece having a top and a bottom, a first block and a second block disposed on the top and bottom, respectively, and means for attaching the first block and second block to the primary piece, an outward surface of the first block and second block defining the edge of a first notch and of a second notch of each chock.

Claim 9 (original): A crib as described in Claim 8 including a base on which the chocks are disposed, the base adapted to reside on a floor of the mine.

Claim 10 (original): A crib as described in Claim 9 including a top portion which is disposed on the chocks which is adapted to fit between the chocks and a roof of the mine so the chocks are prestressed.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A mine roof support crib comprising:

a plurality of chocks that are connected together through notches in the chocks to form at least three planes and are able to support at least five tons of load wherein each chock having a primary piece having a top and a bottom, a first block and a second block that are distinct pieces from the primary piece disposed on the top and bottom, respectively, and means for attaching the first block and second block to the primary piece.

Claim 12 (original): A crib as described in Claim 11 wherein the attaching means includes a nail or wire.

Claim 13 (original): A crib as described in Claim 12 wherein each chock includes a third block and a fourth block in spaced relationship with the first and second blocks, respectively, the third and fourth blocks attached to the primary piece.

Claim 14 (original): A crib as described in Claim 13 wherein the primary piece has a first end and a second end and a top surface and a bottom surface and the first block, second block, third block and fourth block are in spaced relationship from the top surface of the first end, bottom surface of the first end, top surface of the second end and bottom surface of the second end, respectively, to form notches in the chock.

Claim 15 (original): A crib as described in Claim 14 wherein the blocks are made of either oak, hard gum, wattle, maple, hickory, poplar or pine or concrete or a composite of wood fiber cement.

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Claim 16 (original): A crib as described in Claim 12 wherein the primary piece has a first end and a second end and a top surface and a bottom surface and the first block and second block are in spaced relationship with the first end and second end of the top surface, and the first end and second end of the bottom surface, respectively, to form notches in the chock with each notch having an edge defined by the respective block, to receive a notch from an adjacent chock.

Claim 17 (original): A crib as described in Claim 5 wherein each notch has either a spacer or a bar pin or a staple defining a receive zone with the edge of the corresponding notch, the receive zone receiving a notch of an adjacent chock.

Claim 18 (original): A crib as described in Claim 6 wherein the height of the spacer, bar pin or staple is less than the rise of the edge of the corresponding notch.

Claim 19 (original): A crib as described in Claim 13 including a fifth block and a sixth block in spaced relationship with the first and second blocks, respectively, said third

and fifth and fourth and sixth blocks each forming a notch with the first block and second block, respectively, to receive a notch from a respective chock.

Claim 20 (original): A crib as described in Claim 19 wherein the height of the third, fourth, fifth and sixth blocks are less than the heights of the first block and second block.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method of forming a mine roof support crib comprising the steps of:

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placing a first chock having at least one notch with only one edge and a flat portion that extends from the edge to the end of the chock in a mine;

placing a second chock having at least one notch with only one edge and a flat portion that extends from the edge to the end of the chock in the mine and adjacent to the first chock;

linking a third chock having at least one notch with only one edge and a flat portion that extends from the edge to the end of the chock with the one notch of the first chock and the one notch of the second chock;

linking a fourth chock having at least one notch with only one edge and a flat portion that extends from the edge to the end of the chock with a second notch of the first chock and a second notch of the second chock; and

linking a desired number of additional chocks having notches with only one edge and a flat portion that extends from the edge to the end of the chock onto each other or the first, second, third or fourth chocks through notches of and the respective chocks until at least two planes are formed.

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Claim 22 (original): A method as described in Claim 21 including after the linking a desired number of additional chocks, there is the step of supporting a load of at least five tons with the additional chocks and the first, second, third and fourth chocks.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A method of forming a chock for a mine roof crib to support a mine roof comprising the steps of:

attaching a first block to a top side of a primary piece in spaced relationship to each end of the primary piece to define notches at each end of the top side of the primary piece, the primary piece a single piece of material; and

attaching a second block to a bottom side of the primary piece in spaced relationship to each end of the primary piece to define notches at each end of the bottom side of the primary piece.

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Claim 24 (original): A method as described in Claim 23 including the step of placing a stop adjacent each end of the primary piece and in spaced relationship with the respective block to define a receiving zone to receive a notch of another chock.

Claim 25 (original): A method as described in Claim 24 wherein the stop includes blocks, spacers, bar pins or staples.
